

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1876.]

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

POOHDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 23rd December, 1876.

POLITICAL.

GENERAL.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 19th December points out the expediency of promoting a few able natives in the Panjáb to the office of Deputy Commissioner as a tentative measure in memory of the Imperial durbar, as is said to be in contemplation in the presidencies of Bombay and Madras.

A correspondent recommends the admission of natives to the higher grades of the military service, as well as the formation of native volunteer corps.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the same date considers the title of Sháhsháh to be more appropriate than that of Qaisar, considering the vast extent of dominions subject to Her Majesty's rule. A list of all the British possessions is appended.

The *Futida Akhbár* of the 18th December, learning from the *Times of India* that the Supreme Government has directed

the Government of Bombay to provide for the protection of Bombay and Aden, says that this is simply a precautionary measure. It should by no means be understood that any disturbance in India is dreamed of, but this precaution is due to the fact, that Russia is determined to encroach on the power of Turkey without cause, and England and the Porte are firm allies. It is true that Russia is constantly sharpening her teeth at India; but she must remember that she will have to pay very dearly for her greediness when she attempts to approach the Indian frontier. It will not be out of place to mention here that so long as England retains her friendly relations with the Porte, Russian designs have not the slightest chance of success in India. But if, on the contrary, England chooses to break her friendship with the Sultan (God forbid), there is no doubt that the Russians will one day, sooner or later, knock at the door of India, and occasion a terrible uproar in the country. They are strongly persuaded that the moment they extend their incursions towards India, Turkey will cause them enormous injury in behalf of England. However, the gratitude and loyalty of the people of India are a certain safeguard against the Russian power. We are as much indebted to the English Government for the innumerable benefits we enjoy under its benign rule as to Heaven for the blessings of nature. In truth, we are as comfortable in the reign of our Empress as a child is in the arms of its mother. Here a few of the most prominent benefits conferred by English rule in India are enumerated. The editor then goes on to impress on the Government the importance of maintaining and of strengthening the ties of union and friendship with the Amir of Cabul and the native chiefs. He also notices at length the expediency of giving the natives military discipline, so that in the event of an emergency they may be of real service to the Government, and not perish helplessly in the field against a foreign invader.

The *Krita Dhara* of the 18th December, referring to the invitation of some editors of newspapers by the Government

to the Delhi durbar at the public expense, remarks that the editors of the Mahratti papers will go to Delhi, so to speak, as the sons-in-law of the Government, inasmuch as the Government will have to defray all their expenses. It is not right, in the opinion of the editor, to indulge in rejoicings and spend vast sums of money on the durbar, when famine is raging in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. The native chiefs, who will be put to heavy expenses, will also reap no substantial benefit from the durbar.

A correspondent of the *Amratul Akbbār* of the 20th December, in reply to a question which anonymously appeared in the same paper of the 20th October, asking why the people of Oudh were so much pleased with the rule of the kings of Oudh in spite of their tyranny and oppression, and why they do not like the British rule with all its justice, says that the British administration appears good and excellent only to the superficial observer. It is really very defective and faulty, and rotten to the core. There is hardly any act of the Government which a keen observer and far-sighted man can approve. The faults of the former administration were more tolerable, but its merits have now been changed into faults. Under the present administration, the people are ruined; the military forces are restless and apprehensive; discontent and suspicion are so wide-spread that the people and the army are waiting for a favourable opportunity. Evil and mischievous notions have taken a firm hold of the native mind, and are productive of all sorts of suspicions and wild ideas. The least merit of the government of Wajid Ali Shah was its popularity. Its oppression was more acceptable to the people than the justice of the present rule. Rightly has it been said by the poet that the oppression of Wajid Ali Shah was better than the just rule of the East India Company; and, indeed, it is not the king of Oudh alone whose administration surpasses that of the English Government. No administration in all the world, in the past or in the present, is or has been so bad as the English.

FRONTIER.

The *Koh-i-Nur* of the 16th December, in its columns of summary of news, says that it is rumoured at Rawalpindi that the Government will undertake a military expedition on the frontier this year.

TURKEY.

The *Benares Akhbar* of the 14th December, in its columns of extracts from newspapers, states that the amount of subscriptions raised in India for the relief of the wounded soldiers of the Turkish army are as follows:—

Calcutta	...	Rs. 10,000
Bombay	...	" 30,000
Madras	...	" 8,000
Lahore	...	" 32,000
Haidarabad	...	" 50,000

The *Vakil-i-Hindustan* of the 16th December, in discussing the influence of the Eastern question on the Mussalmans of India, admits, as a matter of justice to the honesty of the Christian subjects of the Porte, that their desire to acquire liberty is heartfelt and sincere, and may rightly be supposed to arise from the common instincts of humanity. And if their contention for liberty be accepted as right, the Mussalmans of India would be just as much justified in urging their claims for the same. The Christian subjects of the Ottoman empire charge the Porte with injustice and violence. The Mussalmans of India can with equal force apply these charges to the treatment they receive at the hands of their British rulers. The English Government is, indeed, a wise, shrewd, and pious Government. It is aware that if it renders unwarrantable aid to the Christian insurgents of Turkey, it will not be able to conciliate its Muhammadan subjects. Granted that the Mussalmans of India have no power and pluck, still, if false notions once succeed in exciting disaffection, it will be no easy task for the Government to stem the torrent of popular discontent, especially at a time when Russian intrigues are pre-

veribal in India and their success in Central Asia is well known. Every one knows what a sad effect the last Franco-Prussian war produced in India, particularly on the *pashmina* trade of the Panjáb, although India had obviously nothing to do with that war. The *pashmina* trade came to an end, and lakhs of men who worked in the factories were thrown out of employ and perished. If England does not succeed in securing a peaceful solution of the Eastern question, India will have to suffer still greater disasters. Who knows if an outbreak of hostilities in the East may lead to more serious consequences (Heaven forbid), which no one will like to see repeated? Her Majesty's subjects are quite pleased with the English Government, and their satisfaction is not counterfeit, but honest and sincere. The policy which England has hitherto adopted in reference to Turkish affairs has considerably tended to strengthen this favourable feeling. It is the sincere wish of Her Majesty's loyal Mussalman subjects that the Christians under the sway of the Sultan may enjoy liberty, but just in the same way as they themselves enjoy it under the rule of their Empress.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 16th December publishes an Urdu version of the address or appeal made by the two Sajjada Nashin, Maulana Syad Salman Afandi-ul-Qádri and Maulana Syad Abdul Rahman Afandi-ul-Qádri, of the tomb of Ghosa at Bagdad to the Mussalmans of India, exhorting them to come forward liberally to aid the Turks. The original address was sent in Arabic to Bombay, where it has been translated into Urdu for proclamation throughout India. The Mussalmans of India are made to understand that a time has now arrived for them to win glory and reap benefits in this world and in the world to come. The inhabitants of Servia, Montenegro, and other neighbouring states that were under the sway of the lord of the Mussalmans and commander of the faithful, lately threw off their allegiance and raised the standard of revolt. They caused trouble and anxiety to the Mussalmans, destroyed their villages and towns, and murdered their

beloved children. The brethren of the faith of the insurgents are aiding them with men and money with the object of crippling the strength of Islam, and disobeying and despising the commands of the Sultan. On this Abdul Hamid, the commander of the faithful, sent a large army of Mussalmans to deliver their brethren of the faith, and chastise the oppressors with the sword. This army surrounded the rebels, and began to gain victories over them, when their co-religionists, thinking their position to be precarious, rendered them immense support with men and money. The Sajjada Nashin then referring to the aid rendered by the Muhammadan world, and even professors of other creeds, to the Turks, upon this unjust display of sympathy by the Christians, and to the hopes of glory, renown, honour, and comfort, both here and hereafter, which their sacred books hold out to the Mussalmans in reward of their efforts to maintain the faith, appeal to the Indian Mussalmans to alleviate by money contributions the distresses of the wounded soldiers and the widows and orphans of the slain in Turkey.

The *Lauh-i-Mahfuz* of the 15th December, referring to the speech of Prince Bismarck to the effect that in the event of a war between Russia and Turkey and England, the German power would keep aloof and stand as a disinterested spectator, and to the prospect of the non-interference of Austria and France, says that these fair expressions are full of fraud and deceit. All these European powers are in reality ill disposed towards the Porte. It is clear that expressions of peace and friendliness have been and are still in the mouths of these powers from the commencement of the Servian insurrection, yet they have lent their aid in a variety of ways to the insurgents. Nor is there any reason to hope that their future policy will be different. It is rumoured that if a war will break out between Russia and Turkey, England will not openly enter the field in behalf of the Porte, but may at best secretly assist it in the same way as Russia assisted Servia in the late campaign. But this rumour appears to be totally

unfounded, because the English Government is not accustomed to underhand dealings like Russia. The same paper quotes a contemporary to the effect that the murder of the Turkish envoy in Russia is a matter of no concern, and does not deserve to be considered in connection with international politics. This act was perpetrated by the mob. The Czar is very sorry for this untoward occurrence, and is busily engaged in tracing the murderers. On this the editor observes that the ambassadors of America, &c., were also murdered at Salonica at the instigation of the people, why did that occurrence produce so much anxiety and agitation? Then the fleets of war of all kingdoms ran to the scene of action from all sides. But at the present occurrence no one stirred in the least degree, and it was coolly said that there was no need of any anxiety whatever. In truth, this is what is meant by justice and fair play.

NATIVE STATES.

The *Benares Akhbār* of the 14th December, in its summary of news, quotes the *Bombay Gazette* to the effect that the Government of India is contemplating the dethronement of the Máharája of Bharatpur, like Mulhar Rao, and his removal to Calcutta owing to the misgovernment of the state.

The *Vakil-i-Hindustán* of the 16th December gives the substance of a communication made by its correspondent on the closing of the salt mine by the Máharája of Bharatpur, which is much to the same effect as the one already noticed from the *Panjábi Akhbār* in the *Selections* for the week ending the 16th December, 1876, page 726, et seq.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

A correspondent of the *Samaya Vinod* of the 15th December proposes an administrative scheme for adoption in the North-Western Provinces. These provinces should be turned into Non-Regulation provinces. The posts of district and sessions judges should be abolished, a commissioner being appointed for every three districts, who should be entrusted

with all revenue, judicial, and criminal work within his jurisdiction, as is already the case in the Kumaun and Jhansi divisions. A deputy commissioner should take the place of the magistrate and collector in each district, the chief court that of the High Court, and the financial commissioner that of the Board of Revenue. An assistant surgeon should be called upon to perform the work of the civil surgeon, and an assistant magistrate that of the district superintendent of police. If the whole administration of these provinces were remodelled in accordance with a scheme of the kind proposed, the cost of the administration would not come up to half of the present expenditure, and there would be no loss of efficiency. But it is idle to expect that the Government will ever think of such a bold re-organization of the administration as will affect the vested interests of its own countrymen. The whole pressure of retrenchment must needs devolve upon the poor natives. Only the other day the Government issued an order that the European officers of the Education Department, who failed to pass the requisite examination in the vernacular, should forfeit their appointments, but the officers who failed are still working in the department. But, as regards the natives, as soon as the wishes of the Government for reduction of public expenditure were made known, proposals for effecting a saving of a lakh and fifty thousand rupees were submitted to earn the thanks of the Government. It is to be hoped that Sir George Couper will refrain from ruining the Education Department. His appointment in these provinces is looked upon as ominous by the people. When he was the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, he enforced reduction in the secretariat establishment. Since his appointment as the Lieutenant-Governor of these provinces the call for reduction has caused a regular panic in the country. It is the popular wish that His Honour should soon relieve the minds of the people of their painful anxiety, and earn for himself a glory like that of his predecessor Sir William Muir.

A correspondent of the same paper, learning from the Anglo-Indian papers, that the proprietor of the *Pioneer Press* has offered to undertake the execution of all Government work of the North-Western Provinces at a less cost than the Government Press, fears that the acceptance of the tender by the Government will aggravate the miseries of the natives. The *Pioneer*, the arch-enemy of the natives, that has never had a good word for them, will not fail to turn the secrets of the Government to account, and will always attempt to prejudice the Government against them. The people already crushed by the payment of the revenue, the taxes, and the cess, must now prepare themselves for a worse fate. The *Pioneer* appears to have been brought up in the same school with the East Indian Company, who from a trading company gradually became the supreme rulers of India. One would not be surprised if in course of time the *Pioneer* offers to conduct the administration of these provinces at a moiety of the present expenditure. At the present moment the whole of India is ringing with joy at the assumption of the new title by Her Majesty, but in the North-Western Provinces unfavourable news for the natives constantly greets the ear from every quarter. Nothing could be a better proof of the misfortune of the children of the soil than that the Queen should assume the title of *Qaisar-i-Hind*, a foreign title, in preference to that of *Rājāreshwari*, in total disregard of the fact that India is the native land of the Hindus, and the Hindus form the majority of Her Majesty's subjects.

A correspondent of the *Vakil-i-Hindustān* of the 16th December, commending the practice which is in force in the Military Department, of frequent transfers of officers, points out the expediency of introducing it in the Civil Department also. In the case of the former it is observed merely with a view to preserving the health of the army, but in the latter it is demanded by the public good. A native officer, by continued residence in one place, naturally contracts enmity with some and friendship with others; and therefore when a suit comes

before him for decision, his judgment will necessarily be biased by personal feelings. The subordinate native officers and the amils are also enabled to take bribes in various ways. A European officer being constantly transferred from one place to another, never succeeds in making himself acquainted with the local customs and usages. Accordingly, he naturally falls back upon the amil for such information whenever necessary for the decision of cases, and the amil, by giving undue prominence sometimes to the local customs and sometimes to the law, whichever course brings in more money into their pockets, have the cases decided in their own way, the European officer having no time nor inclination to check their assertions. By long residence in one place, native officers are also tempted to engage in private speculation which prevents their devoting full attention to their public duties.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 16th December says that it is the intention of the Panjáb Government to rule that dispensaries, hospitals, and public gardens, situated within the limits of a municipality, should be maintained from municipal funds, and those lying outside the municipal limits should be maintained from district funds. But neither of these funds is yet in a position to bear these heavy items of expenditure, and the municipalities of the Panjáb are, as a rule, involved in debt. It is the paramount duty of the Government to secure the protection and safety of its subjects in every way. It is unquestionable that dispensaries and hospitals are the only means of preserving the health of the people. True, the Government has at this time to contend with a great financial difficulty, but there is no doubt that the curtailment of public expenditure in the way above referred to will furnish posterity with an excuse to say that the English Government acted for a time in India like a trading company.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 15th December expresses its profound regret at the murder of Lieutenant Harris, who was shot at Rawal Pindi by a soldier on the

parade ground. If the provocation given by the officer was no other than the mild rebuke—"your aim will not avail much in encountering the Afridis"—the soldier was guilty of a horrible crime, which is not palliated in the slightest degree by the provocation.

RAILWAY.

The *Agra Akhbar* of the 20th December notices the need of certain improvements in the administration of railways in India. At large railway stations, where there are refreshment rooms for European passengers, separate refreshment rooms should be provided for Hindú and Muhammadan passengers also, and the prices of the provisions should not be left at the arbitrary will of the contractors, but determined from time to time by the consent of local committees constituted for the purpose. At each station satisfactory arrangements should be made for the provision of food at moderate prices. For men and women of the middle classes, there should be reserved waiting accommodation at large stations. Facilities should also be provided for travelling by rail for native female passengers. There should be separate carriages in each train for respectable native women; screens should be provided at railway stations for conveying women into carriages, that they may escape the painful necessity of being exposed to public view; and female ticket-collectors should be employed. Overcrowding should be scrupulously avoided—one bench cannot conveniently hold more than three men. The rate of the third class railway fare on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is comparatively high, and the consequence is that the line is worked at a loss, and the Government has to make good the deficit. The rates of railway fares in India are higher than those prevalent in England or Europe, although this country is confessedly poorer than Europe.

One, Umrdaraz Khan, the head-clerk of the Rajputana State Railway office at Agra, has, at the request of the Sub-judge and other raises of Agra, contributed an article to the above-mentioned paper on the same subject, for the favourable con-

consideration of the Government. At each railway station of the first or second class there should be separate accommodation for pardanashin women, with a female servant, who should take them one by one in a *doli* to the railway carriage, as is already the case at the Lucknow station. There should be a separate carriage without seats for pardanashin women in each train. No one will perhaps have any objection to pay an increased rate of fare if it be rendered necessary by this arrangement. Pardanashin women should be allowed to take their *dolis* to the railway carriage at every station without any let or hindrance.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Sama Vinod*, Naini Tal, of the 15th December, notices that raffling, which is nothing but gambling in a disguised form, is coming into fashion with the people here, and hopes that the Hon'ble Sir Henry Ramsay, the Commissioner of Kumaon, will soon issue orders for its prohibition.

A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Haldwani, complains that the Naini Tal dāk, which leaves Naini Tal at 5 P. M., is delivered at Haldwani about noon the next day. This great delay is either owing to the circumstance that the dāk lies at Rani Bagh the whole night, there being no postman there, or to the carelessness of the delivery peons. Whatever be the cause, the evil should be remedied.

The *Almora Akhbar* of the 15th December draws the attention of the municipal committee of Almora to the adulterated state of provisions (as *ghi*, oil, milk, flour, &c.) sold in the market, and impresses upon it the importance of exercising a strict supervision in this direction.

One, Umbaraz Khan, the head-clerk of the Rajpootana State Railway office at Agra, has at the request of the Sub-judge and other raises of Agra, contributed an article to the above-mentioned paper on the same subject, for the favourable con-

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	DATE.
1	Goldsmith's Story, ...	Lucknow	Urdú	Monthly	1876.
2	Harish Chandra's Magazine, ...	Benares	Sanscrit—Hindi	Ditto	Decr.
3	Manager's Semachar,	Aligarh	Hindi—Urdú	Ditto	Novr.
4	Miratul-Hind, ...	Lucknow	Urdú	Pithe	Novr. 1st and
5	Shaykh-ul-Sunnat, ...	Lahore	Arabic	Ditto	Decr.
6	Tahsil-ul-Millah, ...	Aligarh,	Urdú	Ditto	Sept.
7	Al-Naba' Akhbar,	Almora	Hindi	Ditto	Decr.
8	Asfahan-i-Akhbar,	Shahjahanpur	Urdú	Bi-monthly	"
9	Atiqul-Akhbar,	Lucknow,	Ditto	Ditto	"
10	Khair Khurshid-Oudh,	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	"
11	Khair Khurshid-Panjab,	Lahore,	Ditto	Ditto	"
12	Musafir-i-Ah,	Agra	Ditto	Ditto	"
13	Musafir-i-Tahid,	Lucknow,	Ditto	Ditto	"
14	Nar-ul-Afaq,	Cawnpore,	Ditto	Ditto	"
15	Safr-i-Hind,	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	"
16	Samaya Vinod	Naini Tal	Hindi	Ditto	"
17	Shams-ul-Akhbar,	Lucknow,	Urdú	Ditto	"
18	Agra Akhbar,	Agra,	Ditto	Tri-monthly	"
19	Syad-ul-Akhbar,	Delhi	Hindi—Urdú	Ditto	"
20	Adib-i-Alam,	Moradabad	Urdú	Weekly	"
21	Akmal-ul-Akhbar,	Delhi,	Ditto	Ditto	"
22	Atigori Institute's Gazette,	Aligarh,	Urdú—English	Ditto	"
23	Anand Lahori,	Benares,	Marathi	Ditto	"

List of papers examined—(concluded).

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	DATE.
23	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
24	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
25	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
26	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
27	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
28	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
29	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
30	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
31	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
32	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
33	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
34	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
35	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
36	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
37	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
38	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
39	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
40	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
41	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
42	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
43	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
44	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
45	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
46	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876
47	Amir-i-Hind	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	1876

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CHECK NO.	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
1891
1892
1893
1894
1895
1896
1897
1898
1899
1900